

KAA Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2022

Location: Zoom hosted by Bob

Time: 7pm – 8:00pm

Present: Ed Lotowski, Jeanne Applegate, Gabe Klueh, Bruce Norlund, Paul O'Neil, David Hayward, Allison Bentley

Secretary's Report: December business minutes accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Club balance: September \$2,085.25 - December \$1,837.50.

Upcoming events:

- * Our next business meeting is rescheduled to Friday October 21st at 7pm. The location of the meeting will be determined by the 17th.
- * Our next observing session at Sullivan is on hold.

Old Business:

- * Observatory work: At this time completing the observatory Vinyl siding of the north and south peaks is on hold, but looking to tackle it next spring
- * A brush removal work day to tackle the brush on the west and south walls needs to be scheduled. A 2" X 2" X 20' transition strip on the south side of the observatory is rotted and needs to be replaced or protected in some way to prevent further damage. Also the rubber flap on the south side has a tear that needs to be repaired.
- * Please email Bob or Carol if you have a presentation you would like to present or have a topic you would like us to present on the night sky, telescopes and etc.

New Business:

- * Gabe announced that he is stepping down as the clubs secretary October 31st, but will remain the web master until a replacement can be found. He will also help with observatory work and other items when he can. Having four very young children with both parents working and dealing with COVID is quite a challenge for sure. We wish Gabe and Christina well through these challenging times.

* We also want to wish Jim Faux a speedy recovery from his heart surgery on the 23rd. I understand the surgery went well. Due to his health condition Jim is no longer able to receive material from the Night Sky Network (NSN) and distribute it to club members, schools or libraries. Anyone interested in taking over this task, please contact Bob.

Monthly Meeting Minutes, continued,

* October is the end of our fiscal year, which means election of officers. It is a yearly election of officers so every position is open for voting on. Anyone interested in becoming President, VP, Secretary or Treasurer, please let Bob know so he can send you the required duties of that position. The one position that definitely needs filling is the **Secretary**.

* KAA members need to continue discussing how to proceed forward with club meetings, observing sessions, and outreach programs given our current staffing situation. Please email Bob your suggestions so he can put together a complete list for further discussion.

* Gail from the Keene Library is looking for Solar Eclipse speakers in 2023 to talk about the total solar eclipse coming our way on April 8, 2024. Susan Rolke will conduct one solar eclipse talk at the Keene library in 2023. Gail is to submit to Bob and Susan several possible dates for that talk so Susan can choose which date is best for her. Susan is also looking forward to go to Texas to view the solar eclipse if she can get the time off from teaching as the eclipse is on a Monday. There is a 70% better chance of clear skies in Texas in April than Burlington Vermont-for sure.

* The Keene Library will conduct an astronomy event starting January 2023 on how to colonize the Moon, Mars, and other worlds. This is a STEM program which will include a hydroponics project on how to grow things to sustain human life on other worlds. Please contact Gail if you have an interest in helping out with this event. I believe they will start to receive the items for display in November or December.

* Gail indicated the library is possibly looking to purchase a bigger reflector telescope or a solar telescope and needs advice on how to proceed. If anyone is interested in looking into this please contact Gail and let Bob know what transpired so it can be addressed it at the following business meeting.

* Ed and Jeanne visited a lady in Peterborough who has a Celestron 4.5" telescope for sale who wanted to know its condition and what it may be worth. Apparently she is not really interested in the money only that it find a good home. Ed and Jeanne seem to feel it was in good condition so if any one is interested in checking it out let Bob know.

* A past member of KAA, Carol Hoffman passed away in June and her brother is looking to sell Carol's 8" Dob. Knowing Carol I suspect the telescope is in excellent condition. If anyone is interested please let Bob know.

* It was decided with not being able to conduct any observing sessions last year and very few zoom meetings either that there will be no dues for 2023, but any donations are more than

welcome. Our yearly expenses are about \$200.00, which include website fees, Sullivan taxes and observatory upkeep costs. **Only members wanting to be members of the Astronomical League, which includes the Reflector magazine need to pay \$7.50.**

Please make checks out to the “Keene Amateur Astronomers”

Please mail payments to:

Bob Taylor

P.O. Box 467

West Dummerston, VT 05357